

**Introduced by Senators Kehoe and Lowenthal
(Coauthors: Senators Alarcon and Kuehl)**

June 14, 2005

Senate Resolution No. 15—Relative to employment.

- 1 WHEREAS, Suburban San Diego is home to a rapidly
2 growing biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry; and
3 WHEREAS, Coastal Los Angeles County is home to a vital
4 and surging defense and aerospace industry; and
5 WHEREAS, The aerospace, defense, and biotechnology
6 industries are responsible for America's leading-edge peacetime
7 and military technologies, and having a stable, reliable corps of
8 janitors to clean the facilities housing these industries increases
9 security; and
10 WHEREAS, Working in poverty conditions creates no
11 incentive to stay on the job and the resulting revolving door of
12 workers leads to greater security risks for businesses that play a
13 vital role in economic development and homeland security; and
14 WHEREAS, Businesses in these thriving biotechnology,
15 defense, and aerospace industries outsource their janitorial work,
16 and the 2,500 subcontracted janitors who clean those businesses'
17 facilities take home about \$1,000 per month with no health care
18 insurance; and
19 WHEREAS, Suburban San Diego janitors do not have health
20 insurance while janitors working in other industries in downtown
21 San Diego do have family health care insurance; and
22 WHEREAS, The Los Angeles defense and aerospace industry
23 is the only major economic sector remaining in Los Angeles
24 County where janitors do not have health insurance; and

1 WHEREAS, As a result, janitors working in these wealthy
2 industries are often forced to make impossible choices between
3 paying the rent, putting food on the table, or taking a sick child to
4 the doctor; and

5 WHEREAS, The 2,500 janitors from these industries are
6 united and are fighting for all janitors to be a part of a new union
7 contract, derived from that which expired on May 31, 2005, and
8 to raise health care standards in the new contract to be in line
9 with downtown San Diego and Los Angeles, other major
10 California cities, and most of the high-technology industries in
11 California; and

12 WHEREAS, Janitors in these industries used to be employed
13 by the principal companies at high wages and high benefits; and

14 WHEREAS, Outsourcing these janitorial jobs has lowered the
15 wages and eliminated the health care benefits in industries that
16 are charged with defending American freedom and leading
17 American innovation; and

18 WHEREAS, In consideration of company security and
19 competence it is the policy of many of these companies that their
20 employees have high standards of compensation and that these
21 standards apply to their contractors; and

22 WHEREAS, Businesses in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical,
23 commercial real estate, high-technology, aerospace and defense
24 industries in Southern California that do not ensure that the
25 janitors who clean their facilities have health care insurance
26 increase the burden on other San Diego and Los Angeles area
27 taxpayers when these janitors and their children who are ill have
28 nowhere to turn except to public health care services; now,
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the
31 Senate supports the janitors in their effort to obtain health care
32 coverage for themselves and their families in their union
33 contract; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages businesses in the
35 biotechnology and pharmaceutical, commercial real estate, and
36 high-technology and defense industries in Southern California to
37 tell their cleaning contractors that they will support family health
38 care insurance for their contract janitors; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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5 **CORRECTIONS:**

6 **Heading – Page 1.**

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